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Recommended Citation

Bunton, Xena; Robinson, Isabella; Perdue, Madison; Hanlon, Abby; Blankenship, Catherine; Hiser, Zach; Spence, Tyler; Truman, Carter; Kennett, Tyler; Ayes, Abby; and Hickman, Noah, "The Parthenon, September 29, 2021" (2021). *The Parthenon*. 4177.

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THE PARTHENON

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2021 | VOL. 123 NO. 5 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com | SINGLE COPY FREE

Marshall to be Recognized 'Model Rosie University'

By CONNER WOODRUFF
REPORTER

Huntington's representation of Rosie the Riveters and their role in World War 2, led members from the American Rosie Movement (ARM) to meet with Marshall University faculty to discuss the school's role in their mission.

The meeting held last week was used as an opportunity to introduce the ARM to a variety of Marshall University's professors to seek out participation and support from the school to help with the further development of their movement.

The purpose of the 13-year-old ARM is to bring attention to and recognize women around the nation who served as "Rosie the Riveter" workers during World War 2.

"It's a terrible name," ARM executive director and founder Anne Montague said, regarding the term, "Rosie the Riveter." "Most of the women were not riveters, most of the riveters didn't even work in factories."

The board, including Marshall University students, involved ARM team members, and a Rosie, went into detail with a presentation regarding the longterm goals of the movement with Marshall professors, including: Wook-Sung Yoo, Alysson Goodman, and Amine Oudghiri-Otmani.

Marshall University has already played a part in helping the ARM with Dr. Yoo's capstone students having helped revamp the ARM website.

"I thought this was a really good social and community service project," Dr. Yoo said. "It's pretty important about today's life, especially our younger generation."

Among other long-term projects that involve recognizing the Ros-

ies that are still around today, the ARM's goal is to form a sizable movement, unlike the average protest, that can give these women a chance to tell their stories and serve as role-models for all generations.

"We are not protesting, we are not marching. We are not blaming, we are saying get together and let's do projects that leave a lasting record," Montague said...

ROSIE P2



American Rosie Movement members met with Marshall faculty to discuss Huntington's representation of Rosie
Conner Woodruff | Reporter

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Mural Protests the Petrochemical Industry in West Virginia - P12

After receiving a grant, the sustainability club has designed a mural to illustrate the impact of fracked gas and the petrochemical industry in West Virginia.


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Rosie cont. from P1

The group's interest in Marshall comes from the City of Huntington's celebration of Rosie's compared to other cities around the country. Notable examples include Huntington having the first Government Building in the United States to be named the "Rosie the Riveter Building," the Cabell county Library's Rosie display. "My own mother was a Rosie," Montague added. "I didn't start it because of her, but I'm very proud that Huntington has stepped up."

The qualifications of a "Model Rosie University," include a campus that both supports the representation of organizations like the ARM while also recognizing the work of Rosie's throughout World War 2 and the nation's history. Pauline Adkins, a 93 year-old Rosie who worked on an assembly during World War 2 was featured at the meeting. She spoke about her story as a disabled worker, having been rendered near-deaf after confronting a variety of illnesses as a child. "I could talk, but I couldn't hear them, I could just focus on my work." Pauline said, discussing her work with the Sylvian

Corporation. "I never talked with anyone about it until she (Anne) got to talking to me about it." The ARM board includes a variety of Marshall University students who find value in the preservation of these stories and how they can be beneficial to everybody. "It's important to gather and collect the wisdom before it's gone." Rowan Robinson, a Marshall University senior said. "The Rosies have paved the way for the women of today." Nick Withrow, another Marshall senior, and member of the ARM board added. "I also think it's important from a political standpoint."

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Conner Woodruff | Reporter

Marshall Faculty Vote on Vaccine Mandate Recommendation

By CARTER TRUMAN
NEWS EDITOR

Marshall University Faculty Senate voted last Thursday in favor of a recommendation for a vaccine mandate at the university.

Discussion over the recommendation, which took place virtually, included one amendment. The amendment added to the recommendation that a mask mandate remain in effect even if vaccines were to be mandated.

During the meeting President Gilbert said he believes that a vaccine mandate would be unnecessary given the universities current approach to Covid.

"We continue to encourage, not require, vaccines, and that has resulted in our employees being vaccinated at a rate of 87 percent," President Gilbert said. "Our students on campus are now vaccinated at a rate of 77 percent, so our total vaccination rate is 79 percent."

President Gilbert also said that he understands the concerns others have about

the Covid, but that he has been in contact with health officials weekly.

"I realize a lot of you are concerned about the spread of Covid, and I can tell you—as president—I am concerned as well," President Gilbert said. "I am in constant discussions every week, if not on a daily basis with our director of environmental health and safety, Tracy Smith."

Gilbert said that those who have not received the vaccine, comprising 21% of the population, are being tested weekly. He said that the university has put resources in place to test up to 600 students per day, and that the new test allows for 15-minute results.

It is unclear now whether the faculty recommendation will affect the status of a vaccine mandate on campus.

Carter Truman, truman18@marshall.edu

MUPD Recieves Two New Motorcyles

By CONNOR WOODRUFF
REPORTER

Two new motorbikes have been welcomed to the Marshall University Police Department's fleet of motor-vehicles.

As a gift from the city of Huntington, the campus police force debuted the two MUPD-Branded Harley Road King police bikes at the Marshall University football game on Saturday, Sept. 18.

The department hopes to use the motorbikes alongside the already established 13 police bicycles, four marked cruisers, and two unmarked cruisers; however, there are currently only two MUPD patrolmen with the proper credentials to operate the motorbikes.

Given the campus police department's jurisdiction extending to locations adjacent to the Huntington campus, along with occasional permissions to collaborate with the larger Huntington Police

Department, the motorbikes will be a more cost-efficient mode of police transportation.

These motorbikes will be a more fuel-efficient alternative to police cars, according to MUPD Patrolman Eddie Bradshaw.

"We're going to try to use those (motorcycles) because they are cost efficient," Bradshaw said. "They average about 43 miles per gallon, where a cruiser may get anywhere from 10 to 12 miles per gallon."

The department plans to annually send one officer to learn how to operate a motorbike with the Huntington Police Department free of charge.

"It did not cost the University anything to send the two officers through the Huntington school," Bradshaw said. "We are going to try to keep it through Huntington, so it does not cost the University."

Students can expect to see these new motorbikes in university parades and other escorts around campus.

Conner Woodruff, woodruff9@marshall.edu



Conner Woodruff | Reporter

Students Explore Majors at ECHO Event

By LEEAH SCOTT
REPORTER

The Career and Major Exploration Fair, sponsored by the Careers in Education program at Marshall University, helps students explore different colleges and majors that are offered.

According to Chris McDavid, director of careers in education, the event is about helping students to make college career connections.

McDavid said representatives from Marshall's different programs attended so students can explore the majors available to them and talk with employers about work in each field.

"It's all about making that connection early

as possible and inform decisions. So, they can choose an appropriate major for themselves," McDavid said. "We have also invited some of the academic student organizations so they can make a peer connection with similar students. It's all about making a connection and making informative decisions early."

MU senior shared their thoughts about entering the workforce after graduation.

"If I didn't have grad school plans, I would be scared to jump into the work force," said senior Mitchell Hall.

"I'm not really afraid to graduate since I am

going to grad school directly after this semester since it's my last one, so I still have about four more years to figure out what I want to do and where I am going in life," said senior Kara Hill.

"I'm not scared of graduating in the spring because there's plenty of jobs available since people don't want to work because of COVID-19," said senior Ben Wheeler.

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Leeah Scott | Reporter

Library Puts on Banned Book Week Event

By ALAINA LASTER
REPORTER

Banned Book Week focuses on how censorship hurts us as a society and shows how important it is for all to have the ability to read whatever they please. This year the display will be up from Sept. 26th through Oct. 2nd. "Everybody can read the same book," said Ron Titus, Associate professor and librarian.

"But people will take away from its different things because everybody reads a little bit differently with a different purpose. With censorship, we won't have a shared experience of reading the same material and being able to talk about it," said Titus.

Marshall libraries have been showing this event in the library since the 1990's said Titus. Titus oversees presenting the display each year. The display is usually around the last week of September, the American Library Association presents Banned Book Week. This year's theme is, "Books Unite Us, Censorship divides us!" The 2021 most challenged, banned, and restricted book is George by Alex Gino, why

LGBTQIA+ content, conflicting with a religious viewpoint, and more. The book itself features no violent or "mature" topics. However, it was still challenged by many high schools and libraries in the past few years. Books are most often banned from high schools, elementary schools, and libraries, said Titus, however there are cases where books have been challenged through universities. When it comes to a school challenging a book, they often have procedures in place to put together a group of people to suggest, while the board itself will have the final say.

"Sometimes superintendents have arbitrarily pulled something, and people have challenged that, and they have had to backtrack," said Titus. When it comes to challenged and banned books, people are often too quick to say a book needs to be banned, said Titus.

"One of the things that I always say is that people need to make sure that they read the book before they just say it is a bad book and ban it," said Titus.

Reading is a shared experience, said Titus, it gives the reader a chance to step into someone else's shoes and see through a perspective that they have never experienced. It gives people a chance to learn as well as try out a new way of thinking.

"I have a particular life experience. I am not able to change that life experience unless I get a viewpoint from somebody else, and other people. By writing about different books, different viewpoints and different experiences I can gain that experience. I see things through different viewpoints," said Titus.

Titus said that people are afraid of change, and when they see a book from a perspective they do not like or agree with, parents especially are quick to say it shouldn't be available. However, it is often a question of maturity. "Everybody has their own level of maturity, what one person can read at the age of ten, another person still can't handle at the age of twenty," said Titus. Marshall libraries will be hosting an online giveaway through their social

media in honor of Banned Book Week. Students will have the opportunity to win prizes sponsored by the American Booksellers Association, the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, the American Library Association (ALA), the Association of American Publishers, the American Society of Journalists and Authors and the National Association of College Stores.

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Banned Book Week 2020. Xena Burton | Executive Editor

Step Shows Are Back At Marshall

By ISABELL ROBINSON
FEATURES EDITOR

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life will be collaborating with Campus Activities Board and Student Affairs at 8 p.m. Oct. 9 at the Keith Albee Theatre.

The event will be “a step show like no other,” according to Corey Cunningham, Coordinator for Fraternity and Sorority Life. “We have had step shows in the past at Marshall, and they have been a big part of Marshall and its culture, but we have not had one in a while,” Cunningham, a member of the Alpha Delta Beta chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated, said.

“We want to make it not only for members of NPHC (National Pan Hellenic Council), who will be the pinnacle of the step show, but we want this to be a community event that everyone can go to—one that alumni will feel comfortable going to as well as our student

organizations feeling like they belong there, and on top of that, just our historically Black Greek letter organizations feeling like they have a place where they can showcase not only their talents but their organizations.”

Marshall has not hosted a step show in over four years, and will be reintroducing stepping to this campus.

“We have realized that we have not had a step show in several years, it’s been too many years, so this year, Marshall University is very intentional about investing in our historically Black fraternities and sororities and investing in the step show with lots of funding,” Andy Hermansdorfer, director of student involvement and leadership said. “The funding goes to our main hip-hop act, Tag Team, and our comedian, Corey Rodrigues, as well as the lights, stage and sound that will be used.

People will remember this for the rest of their lives.”

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life said students of all backgrounds are welcome.

“This will be the best step show ever conducted at Marshall University,” Hermansdorfer said. “No one will exit the building when it’s over thinking that they had a horrible time—it will be one of the best times and one of the best step shows that people have seen in a very long time.”

Mel Thomas, graduate assistant for the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and former president of IFC (Inter-fraternity Council) Fraternity Alpha Sigma Phi, said he is looking forward to the event and appreciating the new perspective of Black Greek letter organizations have to offer. “I believe we are all one in the same, and to see someone else’s

point of view, we realize how much more common and we have and how we can come together to appreciate what makes us different,” Thomas said.

“I encourage [white Greek students] to come out and see a different community and how we strive for different values but it all coincides with one another.”

Thomas said there will be giveaways throughout the show, as well as the announcement of the winner of Thunder Cup.

“We are bringing back representation that we have not seen around Marshall’s campus in a very long time, so I think if you want to see something different that you have not seen in Huntington, the step show is definitely where you need to be,” Thomas said.

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Unity Walk Set for Oct. 4th

By LEEAH SCOTT
REPORTER

As Marshall University’s homecoming approaches on Oct. 4, a Unity Walk is in place to join every organization, student, faculty and alumni to see and meet people and organizations.

“When I was the director for African American students about eight or nine years ago, I conceptualized the idea for Marshall University to have a unity walk,” said Maurice Cooley, vice president/dean of Intercultural Affairs.

Cooley said the Unity Walk’s purpose is to see everyone on Marshall’s campus enjoy being a part of the Marshall family.

“Rarely, did ever we come together as family to celebrate everyone on campus. We felt like family but didn’t come together,” said Cooley. “You come and walk in a big crowd with around 800-1000 students, plus faculty and alumni.”

The walk will commence from the Recreation

Center on 20th St. One group will head down Fifth Avenue, and the other group will walk around Third Avenue and converge at the corner of Hal Greer Boulevard, then walk toward Old Main and to end at the plaza for a celebratory moment with MU’s band and cheerleaders.

“Each club and organization will have an opportunity to say who they are and what they do so they can reach out to other students and hopefully get more participants within each organization,” said Cooley.

A banner contest will accompany the walk. Cooley said the banners will show what each organization has to offer so they can reach more potential participants.

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ZACHARY HISER | GRAPHICS EDITOR

English Dept. Hosts “Writer’s Harvest”

By KATLYN WORSTELL
REPORTER

Marshall’s English department and students will help Huntington’s hungry on Sept. 30 through “Writers’ Harvest.” Rachael Peckham, the event’s organizer, said “Writers’ Harvest” is part of a nationwide reading series to benefit hunger relief efforts in the community. Peckham said all proceeds for Writers’ Harvest go toward the Facing Hunger Food Bank in Huntington. “Besides being a wonderful tradition that brings great writers to our campus, ‘Writers’

Harvest’ serves as an important resource in the fight against hunger in Huntington,” Peckham said. This year, Writers’ Harvest will feature award-winning poets Angie Mazakis and Daniel Lassell, who both have ties to Marshall University. Angie Mazakis is a former member of Marshall’s English department faculty and the recent winner of the Miller Williams Prize for her poetry collection “I Was Waiting to See What You Would Do First.” Daniel Lassell graduated from

Marshall with a master’s degree in English and is the recent winner of the Wheelbarrow Books Emerging Poetry Prize for his collection “Spit.” The event will take place at 7 p.m. Those who can’t join this event can still donate. Information can be found on the Facing Hunger Food Bank Facebook page.

Katlyn Worstell, worstell3@marshall.edu

Marine, Wife in Virginia Aid Afghan Linguist Seeking Asylum

By JAMES BARON
ASSOCIATED PRESS



IN THIS SEPT. 2021 PHOTO, SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VA., RESIDENTS, MARINE LT. COL. BRECK PERRY AND HIS WIFE ADRIAN HELPED HIS AFGHAN INTERPRETER AND FAMILY ESCAPE AFGHANISTAN AS THE TALIBAN WERE ABOUT TO OVERTAKE THE COUNTRY.

FREDERICKSBURG, Va. (AP) — Marine Lt. Col. Breck Perry came to know “E.Z.” while stationed in Jalalabad, in the eastern part of Afghanistan.

“E.Z. was our platoon linguist,” said Perry, who is now stationed at Marine Corps Base Quantico. “I developed a friendship with him and I trusted him. He got us out of a couple of tight spots.”

E.Z. is one of thousands of Afghan nationals who served alongside U.S. forces as linguists, interpreters and scouts

during 20 years of military operations in Afghanistan. All are eligible for an easier way to American citizenship for their service to the U.S., through the Afghan Special Immigration Visa program.

Critics say the SIV program, launched in 2009, has had missteps since its creation and the delays in processing applications have led to lapses in medical paperwork and passports. This has left thousands of SIVs with no way out of Afghanistan, and now there are no U.S. forces on the ground to support them.

“They weren’t wanting to come to the U.S. because they believed in their country and the U.S. commitment to them,” said Fredericksburg immigration attorney Jennifer Cervantes. “But now that the U.S. is abandoning them, now they are turning to us, applying for these visas.”

Perry said E.Z., who applied for his special visa in 2008, served with both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Marines Corps until 2012. Although it only took one year for E.Z. to receive authorization for a face-to-face interview for his visa, that appointment didn’t get approved until four years later.

By that time, E.Z.’s medical records had lapsed and he had to begin the lengthy application process from scratch.

“I reached out to him while in Okinawa, I reached out to the embassy and nothing was working,” said Perry.

In January 2019, Perry submitted a package to Virginia Sen. Mark Warner requesting the status of E.Z.’s SIV application. After leaving Japan for a transfer to Quantico the following

year, Perry and his wife Adrian, who live at Fawn Lake in Spotsylvania County, reached out to Rep. Abigail Spanberger seeking additional help.

“They said he needed another letter of recommendation and I had already submitted probably eight letters to him,” said Perry. “But they needed something else.”

Perry said a worker on Spanberger’s staff worked 21 hours a day for nearly two weeks until finally receiving a departure approval for E.Z. and his family of eight. Leading up to that departure, Perry and his wife both knew getting the whole family to the largely Taliban-occupied airport would be a challenge.

“Anything coming into the airport, they were choking people off,” said Perry. “You get one shot at it. You fail and you’re dead.”

But even though Spanberger’s staff set the stage for E.Z.’s family to board an airplane through a designated gate, the challenge in reaching the airport proved too great for the family, who ultimately had to turn back.

Perry, who learned the Marines had secured the airfield at Hamid Karzai International Airport, then turned to social media seeking someone affiliated with that group who might be able to help get his friend and family safely out of the country.

Perry soon connected with a Marine who assisted in developing an escape route through connections the Marine had in Afghanistan. Perry and his wife had to rely on relatives and friends of E.Z., who mapped out routes for the family on foot

CONT. P11

Marshall Football Falls at App State in 31-30 Loss

By **ANDREW ROGERS**
REPORTER

A second fourth quarter-blown lead has brought the Marshall football team to a 2-2 record. The Herd held a 30-21 advantage against Appalachian State entering the final quarter this week, but then gave up 10 unanswered points.

"We have to be better," head coach Charles Huff said. "We have to finish the game better in all three phases." The week before, The Herd led East Carolina 38-21 with 7:31 left. The Pirates scored three unanswered touchdowns and left Huntington with a come-from-behind victory.

Thursday night's game was a similar story. Marshall freshman running back Rasheen Ali scored a touchdown on an 8-yard run to put the Herd up, 30-21, late in the third quarter. Early in the fourth quarter, Appalachian State quarterback Chase Brice found wide receiver Corey Sutton for a 28-yard touchdown to make it a two-point game. With 5:45

left in the fourth quarter, the Mountaineers place kicker Chandler Staton knocked home a 45-yard field goal to take the lead.

Marshall's offense did not answer for App State's fourth quarter stretch. Grant Wells threw for 270 yards and a touchdown. Xavier Gaines was his top target, catching five passes for 104 yards and a touchdown. Ali led the Marshall rushing attack with 83 yards and a touchdown. Ali also returned a kick-off 97 yards for a touchdown.

The redshirt freshman leads the nation in touchdowns. Shane Ciucci booted home three field goals to help with Marshall's scoring effort. The made kicks came from 22, 33 and 46 yards away. The Marshall defense forced two turnovers in the second half. Linebacker Eli Neal forced a fumble and recovered the fumble. Cornerback Micah Abraham logged an interception for his first of the season. The

Herd now turns its attention to conference play, which starts this week. "We learned a lot from these first four games," Huff said. "We called it our foundation setting. We learned a lot from the first two, we learned a lot from the last two. Now, we've got to turn our focus on fixing the things we learned and improving the other things we learned." Coach Huff said he remains confident in his football team moving forward. "We've got a good football team," Huff said. "We're not shaken, not wavered. We lost a game to a good football team. It's not a failure. It's a learning experience."

The C-USA slate begins with a road test at Middle Tennessee on Saturday at 7 p.m.

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Rasheen Ali hoisted up by his teammates

Courtesy of Richard Crank

Marshall Men's Soccer Navigates Tough Competition

By **CHRISTIAN PALMER**
REPORTER

Marshall's men's soccer team has been hitting its stride against tough competition.

After a draw against #4 WVU and a victory over #7 Akron, the Thundering Herd will face its third consecutive ranked opponent this weekend, #10 Kentucky.

Akron entered Tuesday's matchup against Marshall winless in its last two contests. However, the Zips have already proven this season that Akron can compete with the best of the best.

On its way to a record of 4-1-1, Akron defeated the #3 team in the nation, Pitt, who made it all of the way to the final four of the

college cup last season, and also drawing against Indiana, whom Marshall played and defeated in the college cup final.

The Zips also defeated the Thundering Herd in overtime last season by a final score of 2-1, in what was the team's opener.

However, Marshall has also been tested early, playing against ranked opponents back-to-back. The Herd acted like they have been there before Tuesday against the Zips, overall dominating the game and winning by a final score of 2-0.

The first goal of the game was netted by the reigning conference USA Offensive MVP, the Thundering Herd's own Vitor Dias.

"It was a quick counterattack, I think a play from the Brazilians," Marshall senior Vitor

Dias said. "Vinny got a quick through ball to Pedro and I was following the play and thank god he saw me and just thank god that I put it in the back of the net."

After grabbing the initial lead in the 31st minute of the contest, Marshall added on shortly after, with a goal by Vinicius Fernandes.

This time it was Dias assisting Fernandes as opposed to the opposite that took place on the first goal of the game. With that goal, Fernandes recaptured the team's lead in goals with five on the season.

After the game concluded, Marshall head coach Chris Grassie shared things that he had to keep in mind when playing a tough stretch of games. "If you want to have elite performance, you need to have elite recovery

afterwards," Grassie said. "Them making sure they are focused on the victory, and they have to take their time to rest, get good sleep and medical care and all of the treatments that we give them here, that is such an important piece and sometimes that is more important than to run and do a little extra bit preparing tactics; making sure you've got the horses to run the race."

Marshall has another race Saturday, when Coach Grassie will once again look to have his players prepared to go against top-tier competition: the Kentucky Wildcats.

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Marshall Men's Golf Concludes ECU Intercollegiate Tied for Fifth Place

By ANDREW ROGERS
REPORTER

The Marshall men's golf team has finished fifth or better in each of its first three tournaments to begin the 2021 Fall season. This is the first time since the 2015-16 season that head coach Matt Grobe has seen his golfers finish fifth or better as a team in more than two events.

"We've had two guys that I've been very impressed with in Noah (Mullens) and Tyler (Jones)," Grobe said. "We haven't had this in a while, where two upperclassmen are leading the team. With those two being as solid as they've been for us, we've been able to take some pressure off of the freshman."

Marshall men's golf finished tied for fifth in the Eastern Kentucky Intercollegiate in early September. Then, a week later, the team hosted the Joe Feaganes Marshall Invitational in which the Herd came out victorious. It was the first time that Marshall had won its home event since 1977. The most recent event was in Davidson, NC, where the Herd finished 2nd at the River Run Collegiate.

Noah Mullens is leading the way for the Herd on the links through three tournaments. The Milton, WV, native has a scoring average of 69.7 and has a low round of 68, which he has accomplished twice in 9 rounds. "My biggest strength early this season has been my mentality," said the senior Mullens. "On the golf course, I haven't been getting too high or too low. I've been staying even keeled, and just focusing on each shot and not getting ahead of myself."

Junior Tyler Jones has been just as solid for Coach Grobe and the Herd in the first three events. Jones has a scoring average of 71.8 and also has two low rounds of 68. "I've hit the ball really well so far this season," Jones said. "I didn't play as well toward the end of the last event, so I'm eager to get back out on the course and find the positives from the good rounds I've had."

Marshall's next tournament is this coming Monday and Tuesday in Bridgeport, WV, for the Mountaineer Intercollegiate.

"It's one of my favorite tournaments," Grobe said. "WVU and Coach Covich are a wonderful host. We are so excited that we are able to go back up there to it."

The Mountaineer Intercollegiate is a 54-hole event played at Pete Dye Golf Club. "It's (Pete Dye) a very tough course to kind of talk to your kids about because it is such a hard golf course," Grobe said. "It will probably be the toughest setup we play all year long. It's a challenge. Pete Dye is a course that if you don't bring your A game and have a good mentality, you can get in trouble."

Pete Dye Golf Club is a par 72 that will play well over 7000 yards. Coach Grobe, knowing the difficulty of the course, wants his players to bounce back when things don't go as planned.

"The message to the team will be, look we'll make mistakes around here (Pete Dye) and know everyone else will have the same struggles," Grobe said. "It's how we rebound from those and everybody else does, which will determine how we finish."

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The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Wednesdays during the regular semester and every other week during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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OP-ED

It's Almost Time to Remove the Mask Mandate

Or at least think about it.

By TYLER SPENCE
Managing Editor

Over the summer, Marshall updated its policy to reflect the low case numbers across the country and the state. The policy allowed vaccinated staff and students to not wear a mask, except when in classrooms for instruction, even when the percentage of vaccinated students and staff was much lower than they are now. The student vaccination rate has shot up to 78% while the staff rate has remained at 87%. It may soon be time to update the mask policy for vaccinated students and staff. As cases were extremely high, it was only logical Marshall required masks despite vaccination status - per CDC guidelines. However, it seems as if the peak of the delta variant has passed, as cases have begun to decrease in West Virginia and nationally. As cases begin to subside and the vaccination rate continues to climb, the question of when to remove masks again seems to be on the horizon.

As a precursor to this, Marshall should consider testing certain classroom environments to not require masks before applying the change across campus. It could also be enforced in a more nuanced way, by requiring masks regardless of vaccination status in large lecture-style auditoriums, while not requiring them in smaller class sizes for the many classes that are between 15 and 25 students.

Understandably, Marshall is being cautious and trying to keep in-person

instruction functioning which is the obvious priority. But the question should be asked, are students getting COVID-19 from their time on campus, or when they go out into the community where they can go to bars and clubs without masks or a requirement to be vaccinated. Although Marshall is not a bubble, the high rate of vaccination compared to the surrounding area makes Marshall the safest place to be without a mask, not the only place students and staff should have to wear one.

The Board of Governors' decision to recommend a vaccine mandate, and a mask mandate makes no sense. Even with the possibility of a breakthrough case because of the delta variant, it does not negate the extremely high level of protection the vaccine provides. Between the number of people vaccinated and those naturally infected, it seems that Marshall would be well over any sort of threshold for herd immunity.

As we all hope that the end of masks is in sight, and I hope Marshall is willing able to embrace the amount of work that has been done to acknowledge we are safe here.

OPINION

The Supreme Court's Immense Power May Pose a Danger to its Legitimacy

By RICHARD L. PACELLE, JR.
THE CONVERSATION

The first Monday in October is the traditional day that the U.S. Supreme Court convenes for its new term. Analysts and soothsayers carefully read the signals and forecast the direction the court will take. This year the scrutiny seems a little more intense, as the court takes up several highly charged cases.

Alexander Hamilton famously thought the judiciary would be the weakest branch of government. He recognized that the Supreme Court lacked “the sword and the purse” and could not enforce or implement its own decisions. Rather, it would need to rely on the good offices of the other branches.

As a student of the Supreme Court, I have examined how the power and authority of the Court have waxed and waned over the centuries. The modern Supreme Court, dating back to *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, is one of the most powerful tribunals in the world and across history.

That immense power has arguably made the court a leading player in enacting policy in the U.S. It may also cause the loss of the court's legitimacy, which can be defined as popular acceptance of a government, political regime or system of governance.

May it please the Court.

When the founding fathers designed U.S. government, Congress was supposed to be the most powerful institution. But gridlock has sapped its vitality. Presidents, who have enormous power in foreign affairs, are often constrained in domestic politics. The limits on the Supreme Court - no army, no administrative enforcers - may be real, but the judiciary, with the Supreme Court at its apex, has become in the view of some, the most powerful branch of government.

One of the lures of the Supreme Court is that a victory can be etched in stone as a precedent that can be used for decades.

The U.S. government, states, corporations, unions and interest groups are among the so-called “repeat players” who strategically use the courts - including the Supreme Court - to supplement their lobbying efforts and further their policy objectives.

An interest group like the American Civil Liberties Union might go to the Supreme Court to protect a bookseller's free expression. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, now called simply the NAACP, might challenge state or national legislation that is perceived to suppress voting rights. The

U.S. government might prosecute a defendant charged with violating an indecency act. Civil rights advocates famously used the judicial branch because Congress, the president or both were not responsive.

Groups, of course, might use the courts because the judiciary is the most appropriate venue to defend the rights of unpopular groups or ensure protections for defendants. The courts might better protect against tyranny of the majority. Groups might bring a case to protect the free exercise of religion by Muslims or challenge aid to religious schools as favoring one religion over another.

The ultimate resource: legitimacy

The Supreme Court's public approval annually hovers around 50% to 60%, which is much better than Congress and typically better than the president. But that approval is at its lowest ebb in decades.

The controversy over recent nominations, threats to pack the court, and whispers that certain precedents are about to be overturned have held the court up to more attention and threaten its legitimacy. And the court's ultimate authority rests on its legitimacy. If the court is seen as too political, it will bleed this precious resource.

The Supreme Court has almost complete discretion over the cases that it hears. It annually gets 7,000 to 8,000 petitions for its attention and it routinely takes about 85 cases for full review.

The court takes cases to resolve disputes between lower courts and because the parties are raising important issues. But having a really important issue does not ensure the court will review it.

Sometimes the court simply wants to let an issue develop a little more in the lower courts before addressing it. The court may not want to get ahead of public opinion. For years, the court simply refused to take cases involving gay rights. Sometimes, they try to avoid an issue in hopes Congress or the states might be compelled to intervene.

The court's ultimate decision is binding precedent on lower courts and the justices themselves.

The justices have been criticized for using the court to make policy decisions. This is controversial in part because the justices are not elected and enjoy lifetime tenure. They cannot be voted out of office.

Critics prefer that the court adopt judicial restraint and defer to

the elected branches of government who could be removed by the voters if they oppose their policies. Both sides charge the other with being activists, which is the worst insult you could levy at a judge.

But the court's willingness to push its way into the political maelstrom has quietly been welcomed by the other branches that can avoid the difficult questions and then curry favor with the voters by criticizing the court.

A court of law or of men and women?

As this Supreme Court term begins, opponents and proponents of reproductive rights are predicting the court will overrule one of its precedents, *Roe v. Wade*. Of course, this would not be the first time that such a prediction has been made.

Anyone analyzing the court needs to reconcile two competing realities. First, justices are relatively consistent in their decision-making: Conservatives issue conservative decisions and liberals issue liberal ones. Second, the court itself seldom overrules one of its precedents. In addition, despite the divisions on the court, usually about one-third of the cases are decided unanimously.

Two decades ago, seven of the sitting justices at the time expressed the view that *Roe* was wrongly decided, but a majority of that court never voted to relegate it to the dustbin of history.

On the other hand, when the court does overturn precedents - for instance, *Brown* reversed *Plessy v. Ferguson*, ending legal segregation - it is after the passage of time. Fifty years is typical and *Roe* is approaching that hallmark.

Occasionally, the court makes a decision that is out of step with public opinion and may pay a hefty institutional price. When the Taney Court issued the *Dred Scott v. Sanford* ruling in 1857, claiming freed enslaved people could not become citizens and overruling the Missouri Compromise that balanced the number of free and slave states, the decision weakened the judiciary for decades. When the conservative-leaning court gutted portions of the New Deal, President Franklin Roosevelt attacked the court and the court backed down.

Overturning *Roe* would invite criticism and closer scrutiny. It might expose the court as an institution that makes the law rather than one that interprets it.

After 5 years, Obamas Break Ground on Presidential Center

By SOPHIA TAREEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS



“We want this center to be more than a static museum or a source of archival research. It won’t just be a collection of campaign memorabilia or Michelle’s ballgowns, although I know everybody will come see those,” he joked. “It won’t just be an exercise in nostalgia or looking backwards. We want to look forward.”

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker and several city aldermen were among the few people allowed at the event, which was streamed online to limit crowds amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

CHICAGO (AP) — After five years of legal battles, gentrification concerns and a federal review, Barack and Michelle Obama dug shovels into the ground Tuesday during a celebratory ground-breaking on their legacy project in a lakefront Chicago park.

Construction on the Obama Presidential Center along Lake Michigan, near the Obama family home and where the former president started his political career on Chicago’s South Side, officially began last month.

Standing near an excavator and other heavy equipment, Obama described how the city’s South Side shaped him, first as a community organizer, then as a husband, father and elected official. He said the center was one way of giving back and he hoped it would bring an economic boost to the area and inspire a future generation of leaders.

The presidential center will sit on 19 acres (7.7 hectares) of the 540-acre (291-hectare) of Jackson Park, named for the nation’s seventh president, Andrew Jackson.

It will be unique among presidential libraries. Obama’s presidential papers will be available in digital form. The sprawling campus will include a museum, public library branch, athletic center, test kitchen and children’s play area.

The initial cost was projected at \$500 million, but documents released by the Obama Foundation last month showed it is now roughly \$830 million. Funds are being raised through private donations.

Organizers estimate about 750,000 visitors will come to the center each year.

Work on the Obama Presidential Center is expected to take about five years. Currently, heavy

machinery peppers the site that’s fenced off with green tarps.

Progress has been delayed by lawsuits and a federal review required because of the location in Jackson Park, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. At the same time, fears about displacing Black residents in the area developed into a yearslong battle resulting in city-approved neighborhood protections, including for affordable housing.

Some neighborhood activists said Tuesday that they were already seeing rising housing prices and would keep pushing for more protections in surrounding areas. Environmental advocates have also objected to the location and the loss of green space. During the event, a plane pulled an aerial banner reading, “STOP CUTTING DOWN TREES. MOVE OPC.”

Obama, who didn’t take questions during the event, has said over the years that the center will benefit the surrounding area with new jobs and new trees would be planted on the campus.

He chose Chicago over several cities, including Honolulu, where he was born and spent his early years.

It’s a part of Chicago that has special significance for the Obamas. The center is near the University of Chicago where Obama taught law and where the Obamas got married and raised their two daughters. Michelle Obama also grew up on the South Side.

“This city, this neighborhood courses through my veins and defines me at my very core,” she said at the event. “This substantial investment in the South Side will help make the neighborhood where we call home a destination for the entire world.”

Asylum, Continued from p.5

and in taxis, through back roads and alleys to avoid Taliban checkpoints.

The route proved successful and just two weeks before the Aug. 26 bombing at Hamid Karzai International Airport, the family successfully boarded a plane and left the country. Today, they are living with other Afghan refugees at a Virginia military base.

Sharif Sharafat, who came to the U.S. in 2013, previously served as an interpreter and cultural advisor for U.S. forces in Afghanistan. He is one of the founders of Afghan Foundation USA, and is now working overtime bringing personal items and clothing to Afghans temporarily housed at military bases in Virginia.

"Right now, what they are doing, they have nothing," Sharafat said of the refugees. "No clothes, no money, nothing."

Through a group of former Afghan interpreters that spans from Richmond to Washington, Sharafat's group is trying to bring some comfort to Afghan nationals new to the U.S. at places such as Fort Lee in Prince George County. He's gathering items

that include clothing, prayer rugs, personal hygiene products, diapers, sanitary wipes.

Sharafat said potential donors can reach him at 540-479-0227. A volunteer will pick up and deliver the items, he said.

Adrian Perry said the culture of the Afghan people should be considered when making clothing donations.

"It's a culture shock, especially for the females," said Perry. "They're not just ready to jump into American clothing. I think we need to be culturally sensitive to that."

Officials at Quantico said the community brought goods and clothing to refugees living on the base after the Department of Defense announced that the Marine base in North Stafford, Prince William and Fauquier counties would house about 5,000 Afghan refugees.

"We're trying to find a warehouse to open as a receiving site," said Michael Brady, a field leadership member with Team Rubicon. "We're at our capacity to receive at the moment, but we're

looking to expand and receive from the public at a place they can get to."

Brady said his organization is looking for a facility that can offer about 5,000 square feet of floor space. He said the site of the new receiving location will be added to TeamRubiconUSA.org/ resettlement soon. Brady anticipates a need for blankets and tennis shoes soon, as temperatures begin to drop for the fall season. He also said cash donations are welcome, allowing his team to purchase new items the refugees will need.

Sharafat said his group of interpreters is also trying to teach new arrivals the basics of living in America, including how to communicate, what to expect at a doctor's appointment, and even where not to smoke a cigarette.

But Sharafat said he tells Afghans to be organized and not rush while in America. He said his country has gone through centuries of war and many people new to America from Afghanistan have lived with war their entire lives.

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Saturday 3:30 pm-4:25 pm
or by appointment

Mural Protests the Petrochemical Industry in West Virginia

By XENA BUNTON
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

After receiving a grant, the sustainability club has designed a mural to illustrate the impact of fracked gas and the petrochemical industry in West Virginia.

“The ugly truth is that West Virginia runs deep with stereotypes, oppression, pollution, high health risks and more, and all of that has been brought in by the fossil fuel industry,” sustainability club president, Baleigh Epperly, said. “Just because the ugly exists, it does not mean there’s not plenty of beauty around here. We are capable of growing and expanding beyond anything we have ever been told we deserve.”

The Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) awarded the club a \$1000 grant in December 2020.

The sustainability mural will be located on the first floor of the Visual Arts Center until Sept. 30, and was created by Epperly, eight current members, Marshall alumnae and former vice president Abi Taylor. Using acrylic paint on a canvas roll, the club finished the mural in five weeks.

Epperly said the club decided to design the mural as a visual book—making the viewer read from the left side to the right.



The mural was created by Baleigh Epperly, eight current members, Marshall alumnae and former vice president Abi Taylor. | Baleigh Epperly

The left side represents the positive aspects of the state, the middle shows the struggles, and the right is the negative effects caused by the industry.

With potential feedback from a piece that is open to the public, Epperly said she will not be bothered if people find the mural controversial or problematic.

“The members of the sustainability club understand the concerns of fossil fuel industry workers, they are hardworking folks who deserve good pay, proper healthcare and the right to work to provide for their families,” Epperly said. “Our enemy is not the worker. It is the corporations that have bought and paid for our state and have become extremely rich using West Virginia’s people as a labor force to do the hard and dangerous work.”

The bright color palette continues throughout the different ideas included in the mural. The left side starts with the sun shining over the mountains, which merges into a honeycomb of different aspects of West Virginia.

To represent the state’s wildlife, inside the honeycomb is a black bear, monarch butterfly and rhododendron. The club also included the “shop local” movement and wind turbines to represent the growing renewable energy sector.

A river that flows out of the sun represents the state’s tourism with a kayak and a raft going towards toxic pollution in the water.

Jamie Platt, gallery director, said the mural is an example of protest art and reminds the audience of the message.

“Protest art, when it’s good, does its work in a way that draws the viewer in and holds them long enough to communicate its message,” Platt said. “It is difficult to do well. Sometimes protest art collapses visually under the weight of its message.”

The mural also illustrates a tanker on the bridge to show the emissions of chemicals, a pipeline that carries fracked gas and a facility that hosts a smokestack emitting pollution—with added dollar signs flowing out to represent money generated from these facilities.

“For decades, extraction industries have plundered our land and left our people sick and impoverished

in the name of economic prosperity,” Epperly said. “We, as West Virginia youth, demand a better future where we do not feel like we have to leave our homes to create a meaningful life and do not fear for our families’ safety and health.”

The bottom of the mural is a protest at the state capital building to stop fracking and to save the streams.

“To me, the people gathered together rallying for



Sustainability club members pose after official design of the mural. | Baleigh Epperly

their voices to be heard is a testament to our West Virginian ancestors who fought for their rights against the coal companies one hundred years ago famously known as the battle of Blair mountain,” Epperly said. “People of all backgrounds and ethnicities joined together to fight for labor rights in the biggest labor uprising in U.S. history right here in West Virginia.”

The sustainability club will be hosting a reception at 6 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 30 at the Visual Arts Center.

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